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ABSTRACT

In spring 1989, a study was conducted at Catonsville Community College to assess the attitudes and knowledge of students, faculty, and staff regarding Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) and to determine whether further education regarding AIDS was needed at the college. A survey was administered to all faculty and staff and to students in a representative sample of day and evening classes. Respondents were asked to indicate their degree of agreement or disagreement with 26 attitudinal statements regarding their own vulnerability, the extent of others' risk reduction efforts, their desire for AIDS information, the severity of the disease, and the effectiveness of prevention measures. In addition, they were asked to mark 31 informational statements as true, false, or not sure. Faculty members were also asked to indicate whether and how they provided AIDS information in class. Study findings included the following: (1) students, faculty, and staff had remarkably similar attitudes towards AIDS; (2) while respondents felt their own risk from AIDS was relatively low, they felt strongly about the need for more information about AIDS; (3) respondents perceived preventive measures and efforts at risk reduction as fairly effective; (4) 12 of the 31 questions to assess AIDS knowledge were answered incorrectly by over half of the respondents; (5) over 25% of the respondents indicated that they were "not sure" about 11 questions; and (6) in general, knowledge of AIDS increased with age; Whites were more knowledgeable than Hispanics who were more knowledgeable than Blacks; and men seemed to know more about AIDS than women. The survey instruments are appended. (ALB)

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ED306994

AIDS INFORMATION AND OPINION SURVEY

CATONSVILLE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

1989

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AIDS INFORMATION AND OPINION SURVEY

CATONSVILLE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

During the spring semester of 1989, an information and opinion questionnaire devised by the AIDS Research and Education Project of the Psychology Department of California State University, Long Beach, was distributed to all faculty and staff of Catonsville Community College and to a representative sample of classes which included day and evening sections, career and liberal arts courses, Catonsville and Carroll classes, and sections from each teaching division and well as some from the two major patterns of scheduling: Tuesday - Thursday and Monday - Wednesday - Friday. The teaching faculty were sent an additional questionnaire which was open-ended and asked for information about material on AIDS included in existing courses. Copies of the questionnaires and the results of the open-ended survey are attached.

DEMOGRAPHICS

n = 546

Gender		Age	
Male	39%	18 or less	7%
Female	59%	19 - 24	28%
Unknown	2%	25 - 29	9%
		30 - 39	20%
Race/Ethnic Group		40 and over	32%
White	80%	Unknown	4%
Black	12%		
Hispanic	2%		
Asian	1%		
Native American	0.4%		
Unknown	5%		

Category	
Faculty	19%
Administrative Staff	10%
Classified Staff	18%
Student	45%
Unknown	8%

Enrollment Status of Students			
Full-time	54%	Day student	70%
Part-time	46%	Night student	30%

Those students responding to the questionnaire were generally younger and more often female than in the student population as a whole. The race/ethnic distribution was similar to that of the student body. However, there was a higher percentage of women and day students than there is in general population.

RESULTS

The questions dealing with opinion were grouped according to five dimensions of attitudes with 1 representing the lowest value of a dimension and 5 representing the highest value. The average scores are given below.

Perceived personal vulnerability (PV)	2.73
Perceived extent of others' risk reduction efforts (SN)	3.52
Desire for AIDS information (DI)	4.29
Perceived disease severity (SD)	3.54
Perceived effectiveness of preventive measures (PE)	3.56

The higher the number the stronger the attitude toward that dimension; e.g. the respondents feel mostly strongly that there is a need for more information about AIDS and they feel that their own risk from AIDS is relatively low. They agree that the disease is severe and that preventive measures and risk reduction efforts are fairly effective.

There were thirty-one questions dealing with AIDS information to determine the extent of knowledge of the disease. Twelve questions were answered incorrectly by over half of those responding:

Question 30. Many lesbians have AIDS. (False)

Question 31. It is very unlikely that a blood transfusion would give a person AIDS these days. (True)

Question 32. AIDS was first identified by scientists in the early 1980's. (True)

Question 44. It is safe to share drinking glasses and eating utensils with people who have AIDS. (True)

Question 45. A person is less likely to get infected with the AIDS virus through oral sex than through sexual intercourse. (True)

Question 46. There are no cases of people getting AIDS from contact with saliva. (True)

Question 49. Breast milk can pass the AIDS virus from a mother to her infant. (True)

Question 51. It is estimated that more than one million Americans are currently infected with the AIDS virus. (True)

Question 52. The AIDS virus is easily killed by ordinary bleach or detergent. (True)

Question 54. AIDS-related complex (ARC) is caused by the same virus that causes AIDS. (True)

Question 55. In addition to damaging the immune system, the AIDS virus may also attack the brain. (True)

Question 57. In some parts of the world, AIDS is found mostly among heterosexual (straight) men and women. (True)

Eleven questions showed significant (greater than 25%) numbers of responses in the "not sure" category.

Question 30. Many lesbians have AIDS.

Question 32. AIDS was first identified by scientists in the early 1980's.

Question 38. AIDS is spread by mosquitoes.

Question 42. Household pets can spread the AIDS virus to people.

Question 44. It is safe to share drinking glasses and eating utensils with people who have AIDS.

Question 46. There are no cases of people getting AIDS from contact with saliva.

Question 49. Breast milk can pass the AIDS virus from a mother to her infant.

Question 51. It is estimated that more than one million Americans are currently infected with the AIDS virus.

Question 54. AIDS-related complex (ARC) is caused by the same virus that causes AIDS.

Question 55. In addition to damaging the immune system, the AIDS virus may also attack the brain.

Question 57. In some parts of the world, AIDS is found mostly among heterosexual (straight) men and women.

Combining the previous two lists of questions should provide areas for further education efforts.

The data was also analyzed by subgroups based on age, gender, race/ethnic group, and employee/student group. The following graphs display each subgroup's means on the various attitudinal categories. As is evident from the graphs, the subgroups vary little from each other: the basic patterns of the graphs are the same. Within any one subgroup, the various categories appear to have similar attitudes: men and women follow the same pattern, different age groupings have almost identical graphs, and the faculty/staff/student graph shows a remarkable similarity among groups as well. Only on the graph relating to race does some divergence occur on the issue of the effectiveness of prevention efforts.

There were definite patterns among the subgroups with respect to amount of knowledge as measured by the percent of the group answering the questions correctly. In general, knowledge of the correct answers increased with age; i.e., as age increased, so did the percentage of people getting the questions correct. Whites were more knowledgeable than hispanics who in turn had a higher percentage of their group answer questions correctly than did blacks. However, it should be noted that there were only twelve people who described themselves as hispanic in the study. Men seem to know more about AIDS than women. Faculty and administrative staff are about equally knowledgeable and much more so than classified staff and students. This finding helps to account for the conclusion about the relationship between knowledge and age.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The purpose of this study was to determine where further education efforts are needed for the members of the Catonsville Community College community. With that objective in mind, the following recommendations are made.

1. Examination of the questions most frequently missed should provide topics for further education efforts.

2. Activities aimed at increasing knowledge of AIDS should be targeted to women, blacks, students, and classified employees.

3. All groups indicated a strong desire for more information on AIDS, an attitude which speaks to developing a comprehensive education effort.

OIR
April, 1989

CORRECT ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS 27 THROUGH 57

27. False	37. True	47. True
28. False	38. False	48. True
29. False	39. True	49. True
30. False	40. False	50. False
31. True	41. False	51. True
32. True	42. False	52. True
33. False	43. False	53. False
34. True	44. True	54. True
35. False	45. True	55. True
36. True	46. True	56. False
		57. True

GROUPING OF QUESTIONS BY FIVE DIMENSIONS OF ATTITUDE

Perceived personal vulnerability

Questions 2, 6, 9, 13, 17, 20, 24, 26

Perceived extent of others' risk reduction efforts

Questions 7, 15, 19, 21, 23, 25

Desire for AIDS information

Questions 3, 8, 12, 14

Perceived disease severity

Questions 1, 5, 18, 22

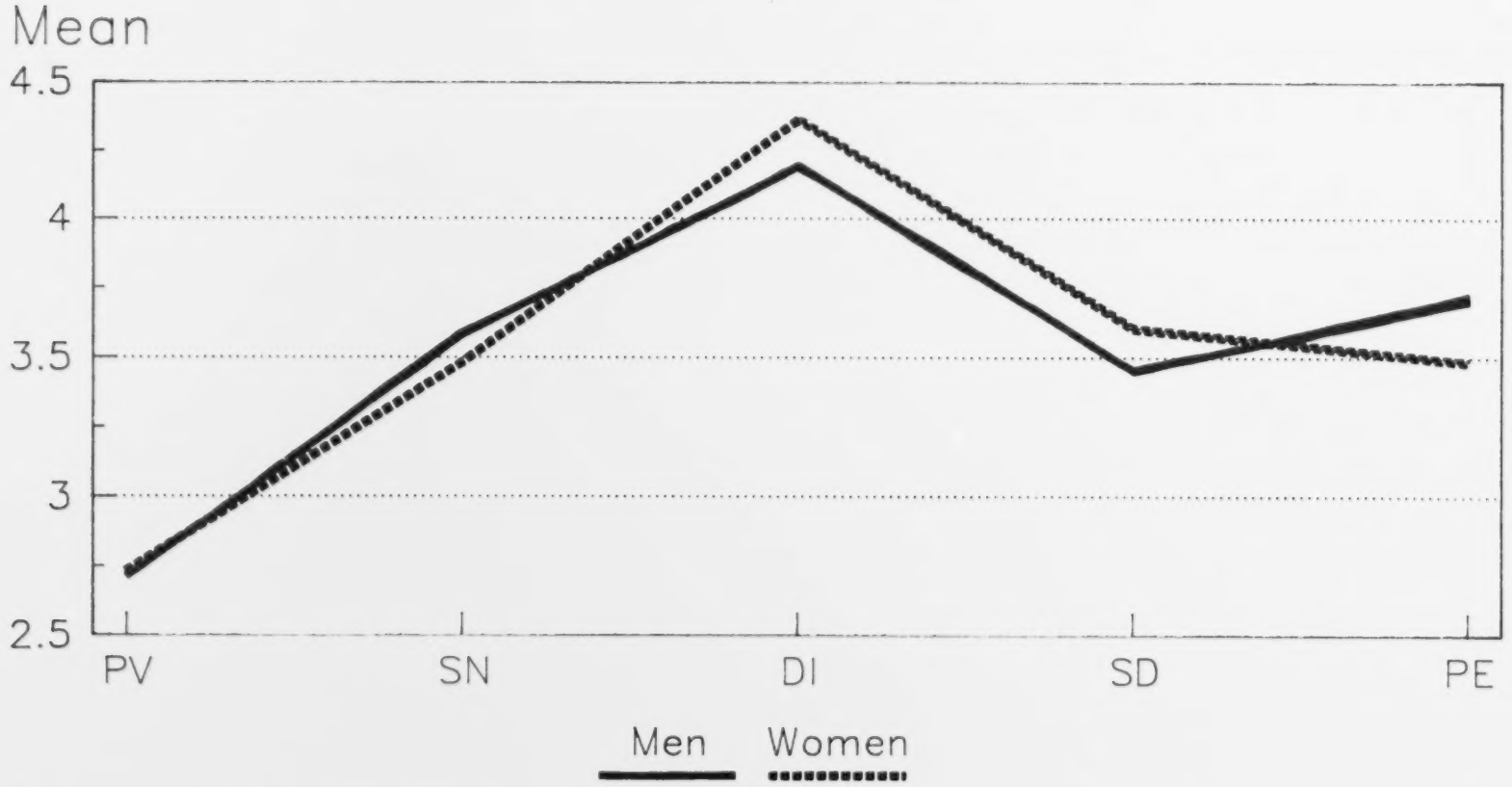
Perceived effectiveness of preventive measures

Questions 4, 10, 11, 16

AIDS Survey – Attitudinal Measures

Spring 1989 – Catonsville Community College

Men & Women

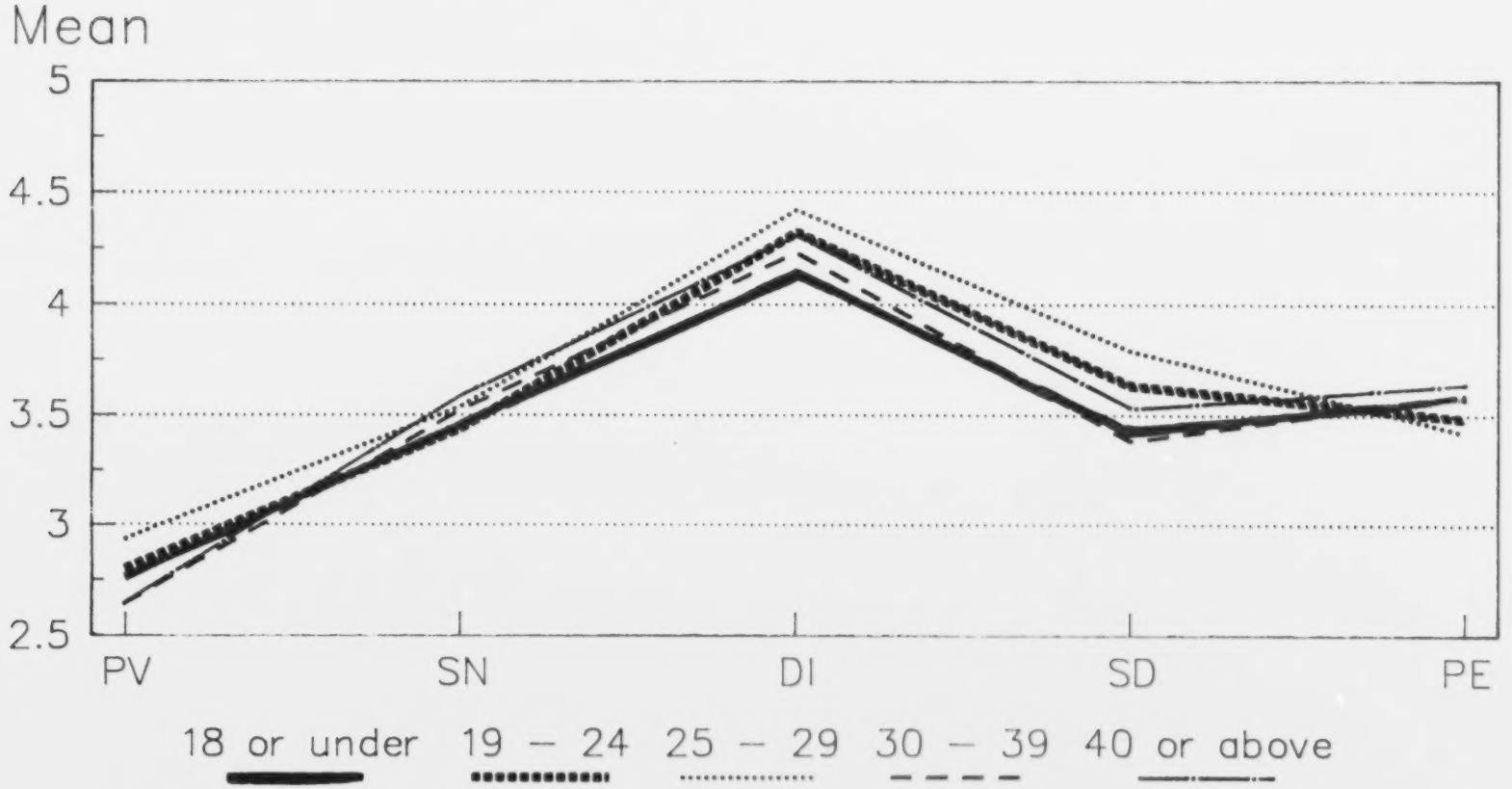


PV=Personal Vulnerability/SD=Severity of Disease
SN=Perception Social Norms/PE=Prevention Effect.
DI=Desire AIDS Information

AIDS Survey – Attitudinal Measures

Spring 1989 – Catonsville Community College

Age

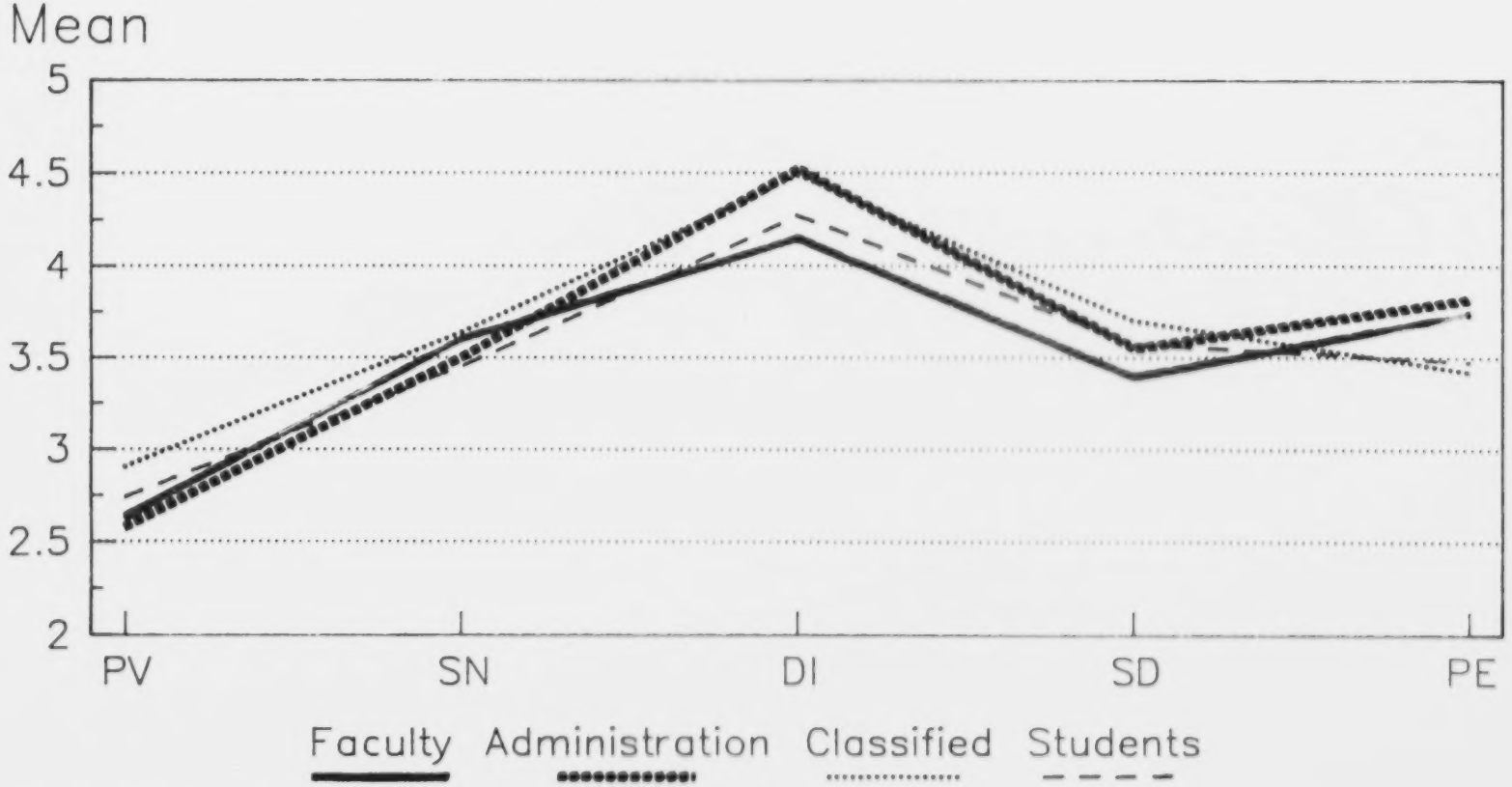


PV=Personal Vulnerability/SD=Severity of Disease
SN=Perception Social Norms/PE=Prevention Effect.
DI=Desire AIDS Information

AIDS Survey – Attitudinal Measures

Spring 1989 – Catonsville Community College

Faculty/Staff/Students

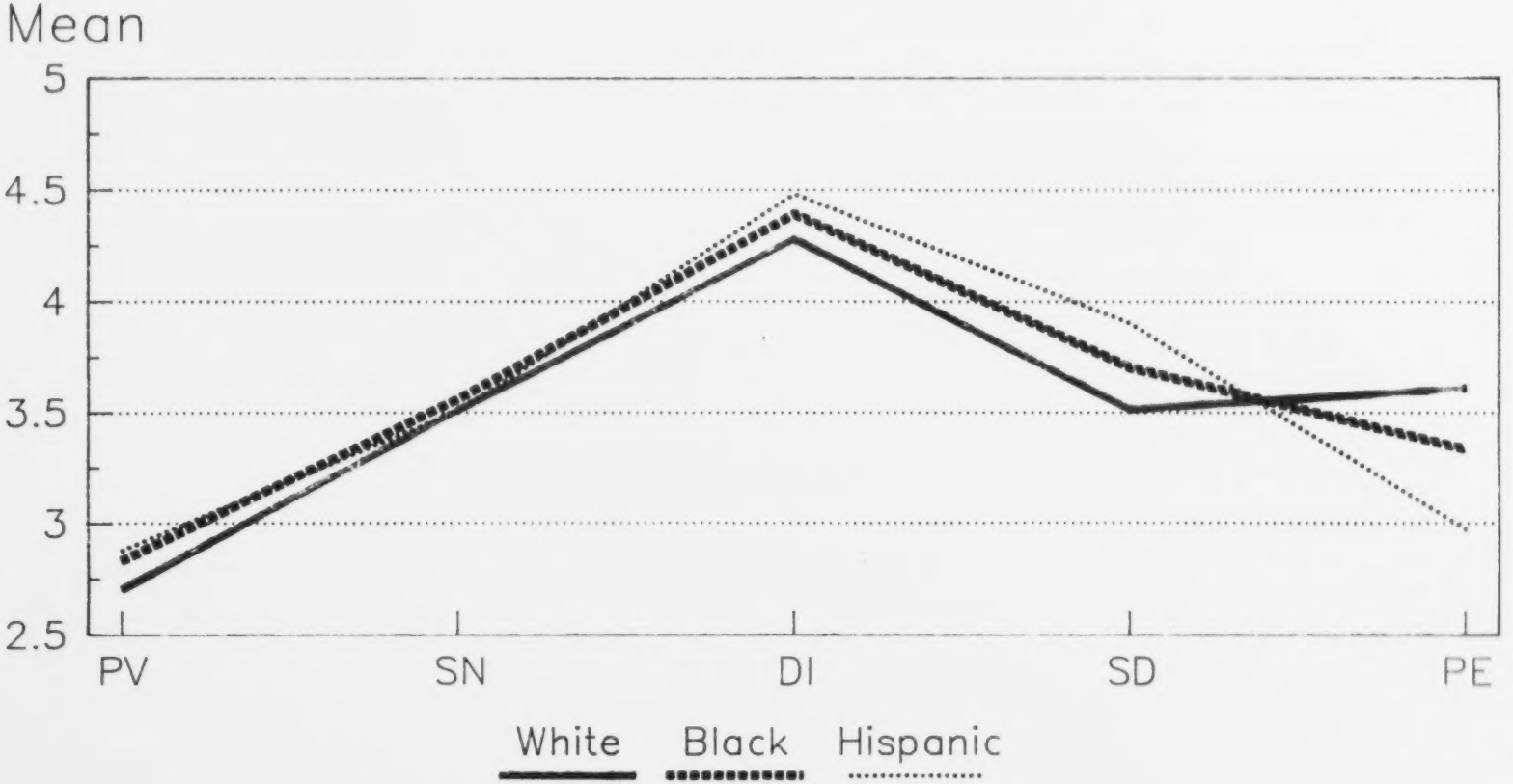


PV=Personal Vulnerability/SD=Severity of Disease
SN=Perception Social Norms/PE=Prevention Effect.
DI=Desire AIDS Information

AIDS Survey – Attitudinal Measures

Spring 1989 – Catonsville Community College

Race



PV=Personal Vulnerability/SD=Severity of Disease
SN=Perception Social Norms/PE=Prevention Effect.
DI=Desire AIDS Information

Catonsville Community College
800 South Rolling Road
Catonsville, Maryland 21228

Office of the President
(301) 455-4100

February 13, 1989

MEMORANDUM

To: College Community

From: John M. Kingsmore JMK

Subject: AIDS Survey

In view of the rising concern about Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), Catonsville Community College has decided to take on a more proactive role in informing and educating the college community about this serious health risk. To this end, the College Senate established the AIDS Task Force Committee to develop appropriate safety practices and procedures throughout the institution.

To accomplish its mission, the task force is surveying faculty, staff and students to access their knowledge about AIDS and the level at which safety practices and procedures are in effect in our classrooms. I am requesting your cooperation in the implementation of a threefold evaluation process. First, an opinion and information survey will be submitted to you for completion (a return of all surveys by 2/24/89 is expected). Second, a two-page questionnaire on current educational efforts directed solely at teaching faculty will follow within a week with an expected return of 3/10/89. Third, an information and opinion survey will be given to students the first week of classes in the spring to assess their current awareness level. This will be done in a representative sample of classes.

It is my hope, and that of the task force, that you will continue to be on the front edge of making our community safe and responsive. Please return your forms promptly to help the task force in their efforts.

JMK:pb

INSTRUCTIONS

This survey is a part of a nationwide study to find out what people know about AIDS and what their feelings are about the disease.

Because this is a survey, it is very important that you answer all of the items and not leave any blanks. Mark your answers on the scantron form with a pencil. If you decide to change and answer, make sure that you erase your original response completely. Take the time to look over your scan forms quickly before you turn them in, to check for blanks.

Do not write your name on the scan form. This survey is completely anonymous — nobody will know which responses are yours. Your participation in the study is entirely voluntary; you do not have to complete this survey if you do not wish to.

If you have any questions about the survey or about AIDS in general, Health Services can answer your questions or provide you with information on where you can find an answer to your questions.

Please return your completed forms to: Health Sevices, K-102.

P.S. Answers to survey will follow in a week or so, plus an AIDS pamphlet will be sent.

Information and Opinion Survey

Instructions: *Give your opinion about each of the following statements using the 5-point scale below.*

A	B	C	D	E
Agree Strongly	**Agree Somewhat**	**Neutral**	**Disagree Somewhat**	**Disagree Strongly**

1. AIDS has become this country's number-one health problem.
2. I am not worried about getting AIDS.
3. There is a general need for more AIDS information and education.
4. I don't think that condoms can provide very much real protection against AIDS.
5. Dying of AIDS is one of the most painful deaths that I can imagine.
6. I think I will be able to protect myself from being exposed to AIDS.
7. Very few people are doing anything differently because of AIDS.
8. I would like to learn more about AIDS and how it is spread.
9. I am concerned that I might get exposed to the AIDS virus.
10. The preventive measures that are currently available give good protection against AIDS infection.
11. In my opinion, there is no such thing as "safe" or "safer" sex so far as AIDS is concerned.
12. I believe that AIDS education should be provided in the public schools.
13. I feel helpless against a disease like AIDS.
14. I have already heard more than I want to hear about AIDS.
15. AIDS has caused a lot of people to think more seriously about sex.
16. There is really very little a person can do to keep from getting AIDS.
17. The idea of getting AIDS really frightens me.
18. AIDS is a serious disease, but I can think of other diseases that would be even worse to have.
19. Most people are trying to protect themselves against AIDS these days.
20. I don't think AIDS will ever affect my own life.
21. AIDS has made people a lot more careful about who they have sex with.
22. I can't think of anything worse than getting AIDS.
23. Most of the people I know have made changes in their lives to protect themselves against AIDS.
24. I consider my own AIDS risk to be very low.
25. Even a disease as serious as AIDS is not going to change people's attitudes about having sex or using drugs.
26. These days everybody is at risk for getting AIDS.

Instructions: *Tell whether you believe each of the following statements is true or false, and how sure you are of your answer, using the scale below.*

A	B	C	D	E
True (Very Sure)	**True** (Somewhat Sure)	**Not Sure**	**False** (Somewhat Sure)	**False** (Very Sure)

27. If you kiss someone with AIDS, you will probably get the disease.
28. A person is not very likely to get AIDS by sharing IV-drug needles with someone who has the virus.
29. People can get AIDS by eating food that has been prepared by someone who has the disease.
30. Many Lesbians have AIDS.
31. It is very unlikely that a blood transfusion would give a person AIDS these days.
32. AIDS was first identified by scientists in the early 1980's.
33. It is unsafe to shake hands with somebody who has AIDS.
34. Women can pass the AIDS virus to their male sex partners.
35. A person can get AIDS by donating blood.
36. Latex condoms (rubbers) can reduce the chance of passing the AIDS virus from one sex partner to the other.
37. A pregnant woman who has AIDS can pass the disease to her unborn baby.
38. AIDS is spread by mosquitoes.
39. A person can be infected with the AIDS virus for five or more years without getting sick.
40. Children who have AIDS can easily spread the disease to other children.
41. It is unsafe to use drinking fountains or public toilets that might have been used by somebody who has AIDS.
42. Household pets can spread the AIDS virus to people.
43. There is very little AIDS among Blacks and Hispanics in this country.
44. It is safe to share drinking glasses and eating utensils with people who have AIDS.
45. A person is less likely to get infected with the AIDS virus through oral sex than through sexual intercourse.
46. There are no cases of people getting AIDS from contact with saliva.
47. More of the AIDS virus is found in blood and semen than in other body fluids.
48. The AIDS virus is not spread by sneezing or coughing.
49. Breast milk can pass the AIDS virus from a mother to her infant.
50. Everyone who is infected with the AIDS virus has some visible symptoms.
51. It is estimated that more than one million Americans are currently infected with the AIDS virus.
52. The AIDS virus is easily killed by ordinary bleach or detergent.
53. Nearly all persons who get AIDS die within one year of being diagnosed.
54. AIDS-related complex (ARC) is caused by the same virus that causes AIDS.
55. In addition to damaging the immune system, the AIDS virus may also attack the brain.
56. Many health-care workers have become infected as a result of treating AIDS patients.
57. In some parts of the world, AIDS is found mostly among heterosexual (straight) men and women.

Please Also Answer the Following

58. Age: [A] 18 or under [B] 19 to 24 [C] 25 to 29 [D] 30 to 39 [E] 40 or above
59. Sex: [A] Male [B] Female
60. Race: [A] White [B] Black [C] Hispanic/Latino [D] Asian or Pacific Islander [E] American Indian or Other
61. Please check: ____ Faculty ____ Administrative Staff ____ Classified Staff

Catonsville Community College
800 South Rolling Road
Catonsville, Maryland 21228

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Faculty

FROM: AIDS Education Task Force

SUBJ: Faculty Survey

DATE: November 23, 1988

As we begin to study and evaluate ways to fulfill our mandate from President Kingsmore to provide a leadership role in AIDS education, one of our first steps is to discover what is already being done. We would appreciate your assistance in compiling this information by responding to the questionnaire below.

1. Do you include any form of AIDS education or awareness in your classes?

   yes ____ no ___

   If no, please skip to question 7.

2. If yes, please indicate which courses.

   A. _____

   B. _____

   C. _____

   D. _____

Please check the appropriate column for each course.

3. If yes, is the information presented as separate from the usual course content, i.e., a separate class period or unit, or is it integrated throughout the existing course materials, i.e., through the use of examples, case studies, statistical problems, etc.?

	Courses	Separate Unit	Integrated
A.			
B.			
C.			
D.			

4. How would you describe the level of information presented?

___ A. Awareness of AIDS but no specific information

___ B. General information on preventive measures

___ C. Comprehensive and thorough information on preventive measures

___ D. Indepth study of the microbiology of the virus, preventive measures, ethical concern, psychosocial issues, etc.

___ E. Other - please describe

	Courses	A	B	C	D	E
A.						
B.						
C.						
D.						

5. How would you gauge your students' reaction to the topic?

___ A. Very resistant

___ B. Reluctant

___ C. Neutral

___ D. Interested

___ E. Eager to learn more

	Courses	A	B	C	D	E
A.						
B.						
C.						
D.						

6. Please list any resource materials you use and how these are utilized. Include books, journal articles, videos, movies, phamphlets, guest speakers:

Educational Resource	Rating
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

(please rate these using: excellent, good, average, below average, poor)

7. Would you be interested in assisting in the educational effort? If yes, please indicate how?

___ Have expertise and want to assist with programs

___ Have an interest and would like to assist with programs

___ Other - please describe

8. Overall, how would you rate your knowledge about AIDS?

Excellent ___

Good ___

Average ___

Below Average ___

Poor ___

9. Any other comments, suggestions, etc.?

Name: _____

Division: _____

ERIC Clearinghouse for Junior Colleges JUL 07 1989